

Classifying Polynomials

Definitions:

Variables- A letter or symbol used to represent a number (or unknown).

Terms- A number, a product of one or more variables, or the product of a number and one or more variables. Terms are separated by addition or subtraction in a polynomial expression.
EX:

Coefficient- The number by which a variable is multiplied, or the number part of the term.
EX:

Polynomial- Any algebraic expression

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|------------|
| A | Monomial- | One term polynomial. | EX: |
| B | Binomial- | Two term polynomial. | EX: |
| C | Trinomial- | Three term polynomial. | EX: |

Degree of a Term- The sum of its exponents of its variables.
EX:

Degree of a Polynomial- The highest degree term in the expression
EX:

Descending Order- Polynomial terms are usually written in order from highest degree to lowest degree.
EX:

Constant Term- A number with no variables, the degree of this term is 0.
EX:

Linear Expression- An expression of the form $Ax + By + C$, where the degree is 1.

Quadratic Expression- An expression of the form $ax^2 + bx + c$, where the degree is 2.

Cubic Expression- An expression of the form $ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$, where the degree is 3.

EX: Fill in the following chart:

Expression	# of terms	Type of Polynomial	Coefficient of 1 st term	Degree of Polynomial	Constant Term
$3x^2 - 4x + 2$					
$-\frac{3}{4}xy - 5$					
$y^3 - 6y$					
$\frac{x^2y^3}{5} + x - 3$					
$(2x^3)(5x)$					

Adding and Subtracting Polynomials

You can only add or subtract terms that have the same variable(s) raised to the same exponent(s). These terms are called **Like Terms**. You can **collect like terms** by adding or subtracting their coefficients, and keeping the variables the same.

EX: Which of the following are like terms?

- A. $3x$ and $-9x$ B. $4x^2$ and $4x$ C. $6xy$ and $-4yx$
- D. $5x^3y^2$ and $7x^2y^3$

EX: Simplify the following by collecting like terms:

A. $4x^2 + 2x - 3 - 8x - x^2 - 1 + 3x^2$ B. $(6xy - 9x + 4) + (8 - 10x - 2xy)$

C. $(3x^2 - 2x + 6) - (7x^2 - 9x + 4)$

Multiplying Two Monomials

To multiply two monomials, multiply the coefficients, then multiply the variables by adding the exponents of the same variables.

EX: **A.** $(3x^2y)(-2x^3y^4)$ **B.** $(3xyz)(-4x^2yz^3)\left(\frac{-1}{2}x^6y^2\right)$

Dividing Two Monomials

To divide monomials, divide the coefficients, then divide the variables by subtracting the exponents of the same variables.

EX: **A.** $\frac{-18x^3}{3x}$ **B.** $\frac{25x^3y^4z}{-5xy^4}$

Multiplying a Monomial by a Polynomial (distributive property)

To multiply a monomial by a polynomial, use the distributive property to multiply each term in the polynomial by the monomial.

EX **A.** $4(5x - 2)$ **B.** $5x^2(6x - 3) - 2x^2(4 - x)$

C. Find a simplified expression for the area. $x + 3$

2x